



USAID | MACEDONIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

Municipalities Strive for Transparency, Accountability

The U.S. Government (USG) and nine municipalities sign agreement on the use of new accountability software.

The “Accountability through Transparency” software pilot project, which will be implemented by nine municipalities—Bitola, Shtip, Veles, Kocani, Kavadarci, Gostivar, Gazi Baba, Strumica and City of Skopje—is designed to make it easier to track the work of the government and to foster dialogue between citizens and their municipal councils. Each participating municipality will make available at least one computer for citizens to use to access the “Accountability through Transparency” program, where they will be able to leave comments and ask questions about local government operations.

The project is funded by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), part of the US mission to Macedonia.

“If citizens don’t like a decision made by their elected representatives, they can let them know. With this system, local authorities will know citizens want to hold them accountable for their actions and responsible for their promises,” says Jerker Torngren, USAID’s e-Gov Project Chief of Party.

Citizens will be able to connect to the web site of the municipality and select the “Accountability through Transparency” section, where they can open a dialogue with the local government administration and municipal council. The municipality administration will check all questions and comments received from citizens, and will ensure that questions are answered.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia’s transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>

USAID’s e-Gov project assists the Government of Macedonia and its institutions to increase efficiency and transparency by using information and communication technology, thereby helping make Macedonia more attractive to potential investors. For more information, please visit www.e-gov.org.mk or e-mail Vanja Mirkovski, e-Gov Press Officer, at vanja.mirkovski@internews.org